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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Draft report of the Fifth Committee

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III. Consideration of special subjects

A. Information and communication technology strategy

11. The Committee considered this subject at its 13th and 14th meetings, on 31 October and 3 November 2003. It had before it the reports of the Secretary-General (A/57/620 and A/58/377), the report of the Joint Inspection Unit and the comments of the Secretary-General and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon (A/58/82 and Add.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/58/7 and Corr.1 and A/58/389).

12. At its 22nd meeting on 25 November 2003, the Committee decided, inter alia, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly:

(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General and welcome the steps being taken to address all requests contained in its resolution 57/304;

(b) Reiterate the need to indicate the return on investment for planned and proposed major projects in terms that are as quantitative as possible;

(c) Take note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, the comments of the Secretary-General and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon and the related report of the Advisory Committee (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. I).

B. Comprehensive review of the post structure of the United Nations Secretariat

13. The Committee considered this subject at its 13th and 14th meetings, on 31 October and 3 November 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/58/398) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.5).

14. At its 22nd meeting on 25 November 2003, the Committee decided, inter alia, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. II).

C. Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

15. The Committee considered this subject at its 22nd meeting, on 25 November 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/58/3) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.4).

16. At its 26th meeting on 10 December 2003, the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly:

(a) Approve the request for a subvention by the General Assembly of 227,600 United States dollars for the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research for the year 2004 from the approved regular budget of the United Nations, on the understanding that no additional appropriation would be required under

section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at the main part of its fifty-ninth session on the continuing need for a subvention to the Institute, taking into account previous reports and any relevant decisions on the issue of subventions (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. III).

D. Improving and modernizing the conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi in order to accommodate adequately major meetings and conferences

17. The Committee considered this subject at its 13th and 14th meetings, on 31 October and 3 November 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/58/530) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.6).

18. At its 30th meeting, on 23 December 2003, the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly:

(a) Authorize the modernization of the existing conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi;

(b) Decide to appropriate related resources under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, to finance the modernization of the existing conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi in the amount of 1,032,000 United States dollars as a charge against the contingency fund;

(c) Also decide to approve the utilization of an amount of 1,020,000 dollars for the modernization of the existing conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, to be financed within the available balance of the construction-in-progress account;

(d) Request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the experience gained from operating the modernized conference facilities of the United Nations Office at Nairobi during the biennium 2006-2007 (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. IV).

E. Special political missions — estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized

19. The Committee considered this subject at its 27th meeting, on 11 December 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/58/20) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.18).

20. At its 30th meeting, on 23 December 2003, the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly:

(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council;

(b) Endorse the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report, subject to the provisions of the resolution;

(c) Decide not to endorse the observation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 26 of its report;

(d) Request the Secretary-General to further explore synergies and complementarities between various missions and other relevant entities of the United Nations, in order to ensure efficiency and optimum use of resources, and to report thereon in the context of future budget proposals on special political missions;

(e) Also request the Secretary-General to expand the treatment of larger missions with a view to providing a level of information similar to that contained in the proposed budgets of peacekeeping operations, taking into account relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

(f) Approve a charge of $133,119,500 for the 17 special political missions presented in table 1, part II, of the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/58/20), emanating from the decisions taken or to be taken by the Security Council, against the provision of $169,431,700 for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

(g) Approve a further charge of $2,172,400 for the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire, for the period 1 January through 4 February 2004, consequent upon the adoption of resolution 58/__ of __ December 2003 against the provision of $169,431,700 for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

(h) Also approve a charge of $7,185,000 for the three special political missions presented in table 1, part I, of the report of the Secretary-General, emanating from the decisions taken or to be taken by the General Assembly, against the provision of $169,431,700 for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. V).

F. Joint Inspection Unit

21. The Committee considered this subject at its 10th to 13th meetings on 28-31 October 2003, in connection with the debate on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. It had before it the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005,[1] the related report of the Advisory Committee[2] and the relevant section of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.[3]

22. At its 30th meeting, on 23 December 2003, the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly:

(a) Approve the gross budget for the Joint Inspection Unit for 2004 in the amount of 4,900,800 United States dollars;[4]

(b) Decide to take action on the gross budget for the Joint Inspection Unit for the year 2005 in the context of the first budget performance report for the biennium 2004-2005 (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. VI).

G. International Civil Service Commission

23. The Committee considered this subject at its 10th to 13th meetings, on 28-31 October 2003, in connection with the debate on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. It had before it the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, the related report of the Advisory Committee and the relevant section of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

24. At its 30th meeting, on 23 December 2003, the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly approve a gross budget for the International Civil Service Commission for the biennium 2004-2005 in the amount of 14,724,100 United States dollars[4] (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. VII).

H. Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator

25. The Committee considered this subject at its 10th to 13th meetings, on 28-31 October 2003, in connection with the debate on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. It had before it the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, the related report of the Advisory Committee and the relevant section of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

26. At its 30th meeting, on 23 December 2003, the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly approve the gross budget for the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator for the biennium 2004-2005 in the amount of 86,375,800 United States dollars;[4] (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. VIII).

I. Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2003

27. The Committee considered this subject at its 22nd meeting, on 25 November 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/58/10) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.8).

28. At its 30th meeting, on 23 December 2003, the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly:

(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee;

(b) Note that additional financial requirements for the meeting of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in the amount of $58,300 are no longer required;

(c) Invite the Economic and Social Council to review its decision 2003/264 regarding the arrangement for the Social Forum, and in this regard invite the Council to hold the Social Forum immediately before the sessions of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and decide that the related resources of $12,800 would be a charge against the contingency fund;

(d) Invite the Council to review its decision 2003/269 with a view to examining the possibility that additional meetings of the Commission on Human

Rights might not be required in connection with its sixtieth session, and request, in this regard, the Secretary-General to provide such conference services as might be required consequent to Council decision 2003/269, as reviewed, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the related expenditures in the context of the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, and decide that an amount of 193,800 United States dollars would be set aside in the contingency fund in the event that additional requirements arise from providing such services (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. IX).

J. Administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

29. The Committee considered this subject at its 21st and 27th meetings, on 24 November and 11 December 2003. It had before it the report of the Standing Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (A/58/214 and A/58/214/Corr.1), the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/58/27) and the related reports of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.9 and A/58/7/Add.19).

30. At its 30th meeting, on 23 December 2003, the Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly:

(a) Concur with the recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on the administrative expenses of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and on the administrative and financial implications arising from the report of the Standing Committee;

(b) Approve expenses, chargeable directly to the Fund, totalling 80,770,800 United States dollars net for the biennium 2004-2005 and no change in the initial appropriation of 74,384,900 dollars net for the biennium 2002-2003 for the administration of the Fund;

(c) Also approve an additional amount of 1,504,500 dollars above the level of resources under section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, of the regular budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2004-2005 as the United Nations share of the cost of the administrative expenses of the central secretariat of the Fund;

(d) Authorize the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board to supplement the voluntary contributions to the Emergency Fund for the biennium 2004-2005 by an amount not exceeding 200,000 United States dollars (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. X).

K. Special political missions

31. The Committee considered this subject at its 29th meeting, on 18 December 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/58/33).

32. At its 30th meeting, on 23 December 2003, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly note that an unallocated balance of 26,954,800 dollars remains against the provision of 169,431,700 United States dollars for special political missions (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. XI).

L. Proposed programme budget for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

33. The Committee considered the subject at its 16th meeting, on 5 November 2003. It had before it the programme budget proposals for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/58/6 (Sect. 13) and A/58/6 (Sect. 13)/Add.1) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.7).

34. At its 30th meeting, on 23 December 2003, the Committee decided, inter alia, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly decide to approve the resources in the amount of 23,472,200 United States dollars proposed for the biennium 2004-2005 under section 13, International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. XII).

M. Effects of changes in rates of exchange and inflation

35. The Committee considered the subject at its 22nd meeting, on 25 November 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/58/528) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.11).

36. At its 30th meeting, on 23 December 2003, the Committee decided, inter alia, to recommend that the General Assembly take note of the revised estimates arising from recosting due to the effects of changes in the rates of exchange and inflation (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. XIII).

N. Financial viability of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

37. The Committee considered the subject at its 22nd meeting, on 25 November 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/58/544) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.10).

38. At its 30th meeting, on 23 December 2003, the Committee decided, inter alia, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly:

(a) Decide to cancel the debt of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in respect of rent and maintenance charges in the amount of 321,184 United States dollars;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to invite the Board of Trustees of UNITAR to rationalize the financial structure of the Institute, including through the possible application of a consistent programme support rate to the special purpose grants fund in order to bring it in line with the standard rate applied by the United Nations, and decide to revert to the issue at its fifty-ninth session (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. XIV).

O. Cost implications of providing more predictable and adequate conference services to the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States

39. The Committee considered this subject at its 13th and 14th meetings, on 31 October and 3 November 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/58/397) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.5).

40. At its 30th meeting, on 23 December 2003, the Committee decided, inter alia, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee, and note further in this regard that there would be no effect on the budget estimates of the United Nations (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. XV).

P. Contingency fund

41. The Committee considered this subject at its 29th meeting, on 18 December 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/58/34).

42. At its 30th meeting on 23 December 2003, the Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly note that a balance of 11,314,500 United States dollars remains in the contingency fund[5] (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. XVI).

Q. Conference and support services extended to the Counter-Terrorism Committee in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)

43. The Committee considered this subject at its 28th meeting, on 16 December 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/58/23) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.17).

44. At its 30th meeting, on 23 December 2003, the Committee decided, inter alia, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly:

(a) Reiterate paragraph 2 of its resolution 56/288, in which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of conference and support services to the Counter-Terrorism Committee without adversely affecting other conference services;

(b) Decide to appropriate an amount of 8,193,000 United States dollars to support the meeting requirements of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for the biennium 2004-2005 in the programme budget as follows: 7,958,900 dollars under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, and 234,100 dollars under section 29D, Office of Central Support Services (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. XVII).

R. Development Account

45. The Committee considered this subject at its 13th and 14th meetings, on 31 October and 3 November 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/58/404) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.5).

46. At its 22nd meeting on 25 November 2003, the Committee decided, inter alia, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly decide to take note of the report of the Secretary-General and concur with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. XVIII).

S. Additional expenditures deriving from inflation and currency fluctuations

47. The Committee considered the subject at its 13th and 14th meetings, on 31 October and 3 November 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/58/400) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.5, sect. IV).

48. At its 22nd meeting, on 25 November 2003, the Committee decided, inter alia, to recommend that the General Assembly:

(a) Reaffirm its resolution 41/213;

(b) Note that the effects on the budget of inflation and currency fluctuations can be both positive and negative;

(c) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on additional expenditures deriving from inflation and currency fluctuations and the related report of the Advisory Committee;

(d) Request the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of establishing a reserve fund to utilize currency gains and to report thereon, through the Advisory Committee, to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. XIX).

T. Proportion of General Service staff to Professional staff in the regional commissions

49. The Committee considered this subject at its 13th and 14th meetings, on 31 October and 3 November 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/58/403) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.5).

50. At its 22nd meeting on 25 November 2003, the Committee decided, inter alia, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. XX).

U. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

51. The Committee considered this subject at its 13th and 14th meetings, on 31 October and 3 November 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/58/173).

52. At its 22nd meeting, on 25 November 2003, the Committee decided, inter alia, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly decide to take note of the report of the Secretary-General (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. XXI).

V. Capital master plan

53. The Committee considered this subject at its 25th meeting, on 4 December 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the capital master plan (A/58/599), a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/58/342), a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the Board of Auditors (A/58/321) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.15).

54. At its 30th meeting, on 23 December 2003, the Committee decided, inter alia, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly decide to take note of the report of the Secretary-General, the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the Board of Auditors and the related report of the Advisory Committee (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. XXII).

X. Administration and management of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

55. The Committee considered this subject at its 22nd and 23rd meetings, on 22 November and 1 December 2003. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/58/569) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.12).

56. At its 30th meeting, on 23 December 2003, the Committee decided, inter alia, without a vote, to take note of the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. XXIII).

Y. Administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2003

57. The Committee considered this subject at its 18th meeting, on 10 November 2003. It had before it the statement of the Secretary-General (A/58/378) and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/58/7/Add.2).

58. At its 30th meeting, on 23 December 2003, the Committee decided, inter alia, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly take note of the statement of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee (see para. 59, draft resolution III, sect. XXIV).

IV. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

59. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions.

Draft resolution I
Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

[see A/C.5/58/L.48 as adopted by the Committee]

Draft resolution II
Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

[see A/C.5/58/L.49 as adopted by the Committee]

Draft resolution III
Special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

[see A/C.5/58/L.50 as adopted by the Committee]

Draft resolution IV
Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2004-2005

[see A/C.5/58/L.51 as adopted by the Committee]

Draft resolution V
Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2004-2005

[see A/C.5/58/L.52 as adopted by the Committee]

Notes

[1] The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 is contained in documents A/58/6 (Introduction), A/58/6 (Sects. 1-33), A/58/6 (Income sects. 1-3) and A/58/6/Corr.1.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/58/7).

[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 16* (A/58/16).

[4] See A/58/6 (Sect. 31), A/58/528 and A/58/7/Add.11.

[5] See A/C.5/58/34.